

## PRESS RELEASE

### Alaska State Museum

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** through January 13, 2007

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## DALE DEARMOND: THE NONDALTON LEGENDS

As a tribute to Alaska artist Dale DeArmond, who died November 21, 2006, the Alaska State Museum is featuring a special exhibition of her works from December 1, 2006, through January 13, 2007. A prolific artist whose works are in the permanent collections of a number of institutions, DeArmond was especially known for her wood engraving illustrations of the mythology and folklore of Alaska.

"The Nondalton Legend Series" features a dozen hand-pulled woodblock prints. DeArmond made this series of woodblocks after visiting the Athabaskan village of Nondalton, which is near Lake Clark at the head of the Alaska Peninsula.

"I'm an illustrator by instinct and choice and I've always been interested in myths and folk tales. ... My adult life has been spent in Alaska and the myths and folk tales of the Alaska Native people provide me with a rich fund of subjects," DeArmond once wrote.

The woodblock prints in the exhibit are accompanied by condensed versions of the legends that inspired them. The legends were collected in the book "Dena'ina Sukdu'a: Traditional Stories of the Tanaina Athabascans," compiled by Joan M. Tenenbaum. These woodblock prints also illustrate the book.

DeArmond began working with woodblock printing in 1960 and also explored silkscreen and lithography. She devoted much of her time to wood engraving. She was also the author and illustrator of several books for children and adults.

The DeArmond prints were a bequest to the Alaska State Museum by Juneau resident Stephen Rausch.

The museum's winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, except holidays. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15.

Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

Images from the exhibition are available. Contact Mark Daughhetee at 465-4819.